

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

It is requested that the foregoing amendment be entered pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claims 1-91 are pending in the application, of which claims 18, 28, 63, and 73 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-17, 19-27, 29, 31-38, 40-44, 46-62, 64-72, 74, 76-83, 85-89, and 91 are rejected as obvious over Piosenka et al. in view of Kanevsky et al. under 35 U.S.C. 103(a); and claims 39, 45, 84 and 90 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The Examiner considers that claims 39, 45, 84 and 90 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 30 and 75 are allowed.

Claim Amendments

In the foregoing amendment:

- Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 37 depending on claim 1 and claim 39 depending on claim 37; claims 37 and 39 are canceled; and claim 38 depending on claim 37 is amended to change dependency to amended independent claim 1.
- Claim 45 depending on independent claim 1 is rewritten in independent form including the limitations of independent claim 1.
- Independent claim 46 is amended to include the limitations of claim 82 depending on claim 46 and claim 84 depending on claim 82; claims 82 and 84 are canceled; and claim 83 depending on claim 82 is amended to change dependency to amended independent claim 46.
- Claim 90 depending on independent claim 46 is rewritten in independent form including the limitations of independent claim 46.

- Independent claim 91 is canceled.

Support for the foregoing amendment is found throughout the specification and in the claims as detailed above. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In keeping with the Examiner's statement that claims 39, 45, 84 and 90 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the foregoing amendment renders the rejection of claims 1-17, 19-27, 29, 31-38, 40-44, 46-62, 64-72, 74, 76-83, 85-89, and 91 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) moot for at least the following reasons:

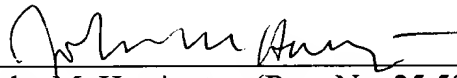
- Amended independent claim 1 includes all the limitations of original independent claim 1, original claim 37 depending on original claim 1 and original claim 39 depending on original claim 37 and is thus in condition for allowance.
- Likewise, claims 2-17, 19-27, 29, 31-36, 38, and 40-44 which depend on amended independent claim 1 are thus in condition for allowance.
- Rewritten independent claim 45 includes all the limitations of original independent claim 1 and original dependent claim 45 and is thus in condition for allowance.
- Amended independent claim 46 includes all the limitations of original independent 46, original claim 82 depending on original claim 46 and original claim 84 depending on original claim 82 and is thus in condition for allowance.
- Likewise, claims 47-62, 64-72, 74, 76-81, 83, and 85-89 which depend on amended independent claim 46 are thus in condition for allowance.
- Rewritten independent claim 90 includes all the limitations of original independent claim 46 and original dependent claim 90 and is thus in condition for allowance.
- Claims 37, 39, 82, 84, and 91 are canceled.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the proposed amendments comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.116 and should therefore be entered, and that with entry of the amendments and in view of these remarks, each of the claims remaining in the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection and to pass the application to issue. The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (336) 607-7318 to discuss any questions relating to the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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